

B O O K L E T

S Y Q U R A I S H I



Population: Are Muslims overtaking the Hindus?

There are several myths being spread about the Muslim population in India which are creating fear and hostility among the Hindus against the Muslims.

Myth No. 1

The Muslims produce too many children and are solely responsible for the population explosion.

- Yes, Muslims have the lowest levels of FP - only 45.3%. Their TFR is 2.61 which is the highest. (TFR= Total Fertility Rate, total number of children a woman would have in her lifetime).
- But the fact that Hindus are not far behind, with the second-lowest FP at 54.4%, and second-highest TFR of 2.13, is completely missed.
- Between the 1951 and 2011 Census, a net increase in the Muslim population was 13.6 crores and of Hindus 67.6 cr. Thus major contribution to the population “explosion” came from the Hindus - as much as five times more than the Muslims.
- The gap between the Muslim and Hindu populations increased from 26.7 crores to 80.8 crores.

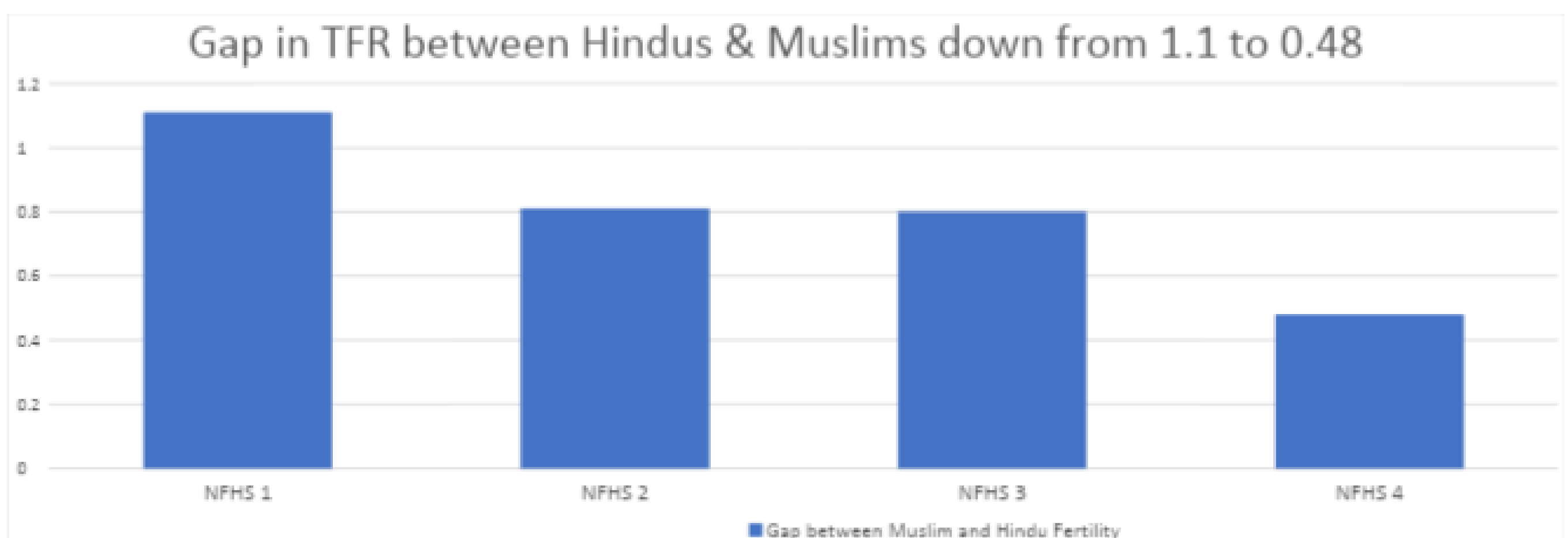
Thus the propaganda that Muslims are overtaking the Hindus is absurd.

Myth No. 2

Muslim population growth is upsetting the demographic balance

- The demographic ratio of India indeed shows an increase in Muslims from 9.8 in 1951 to 14.2 in 2011, and a decline in Hindus from 84.2% to 79.8%. This is an increase of 4.4 percentage points in 60 years.
- Muslims adopt FP faster than Hindus. The gap in their number of children is narrowing. From 1.1 in 1991, it has come down to 0.48.
- Thus the change in demographic balance, already inconsequential, is getting arrested.

Gap in TFR Declining



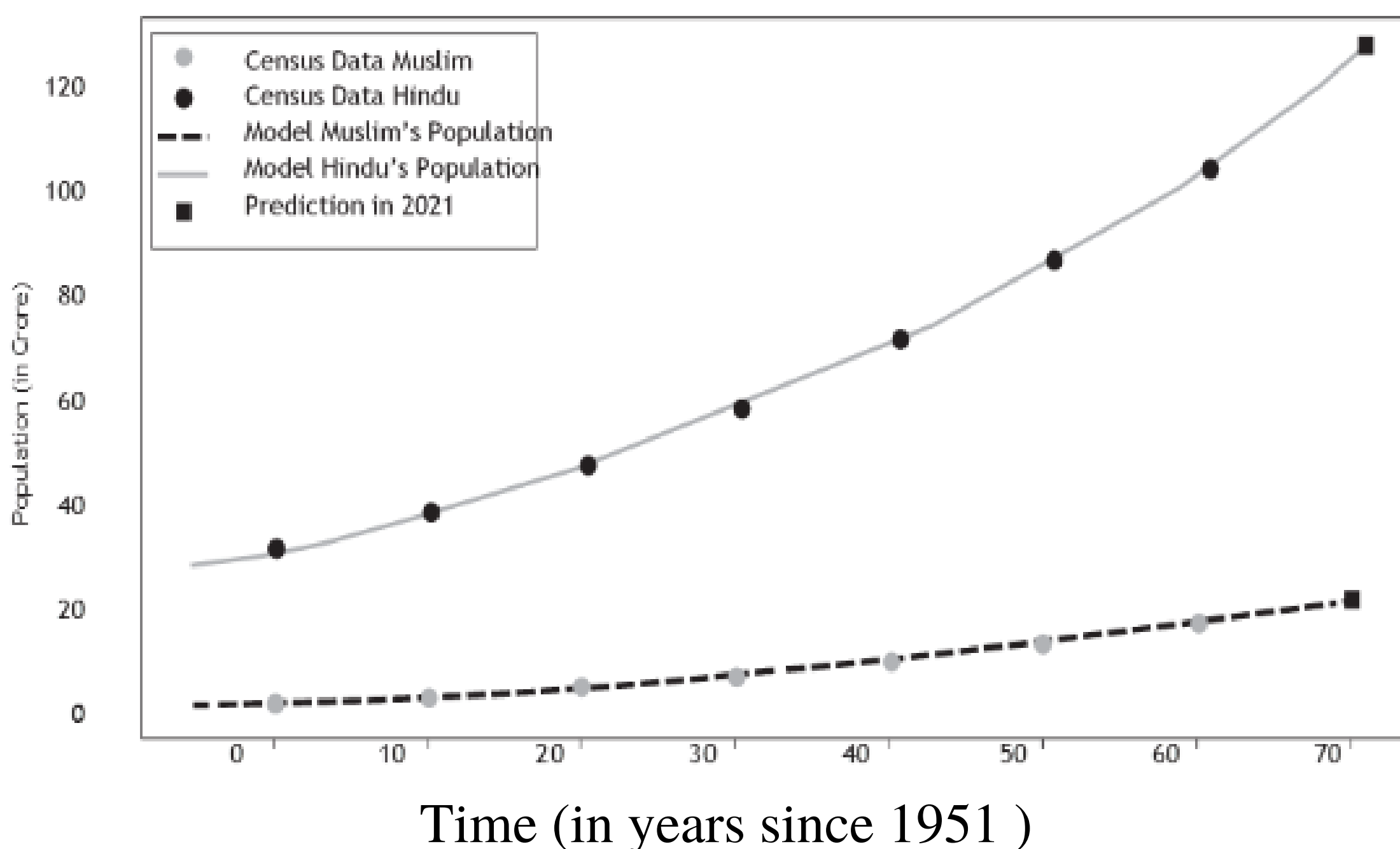
Source: NFHS 1-4

Myth No. 3

There is an organized conspiracy by Muslims to overtake the Hindu population to capture political power.

- “They are about to succeed within a few years.”
- Many right-wing leaders appeal to Hindus to produce 8-10 children.
- Fact: No Muslim leader or scholar has asked Muslims to produce more children to overtake Hindus.
- A Mathematical Model by Prof Dinesh Singh (former VC Delhi University) and Prof Ajay Kumar has demonstrated that Muslims can NEVER overtake Hindus

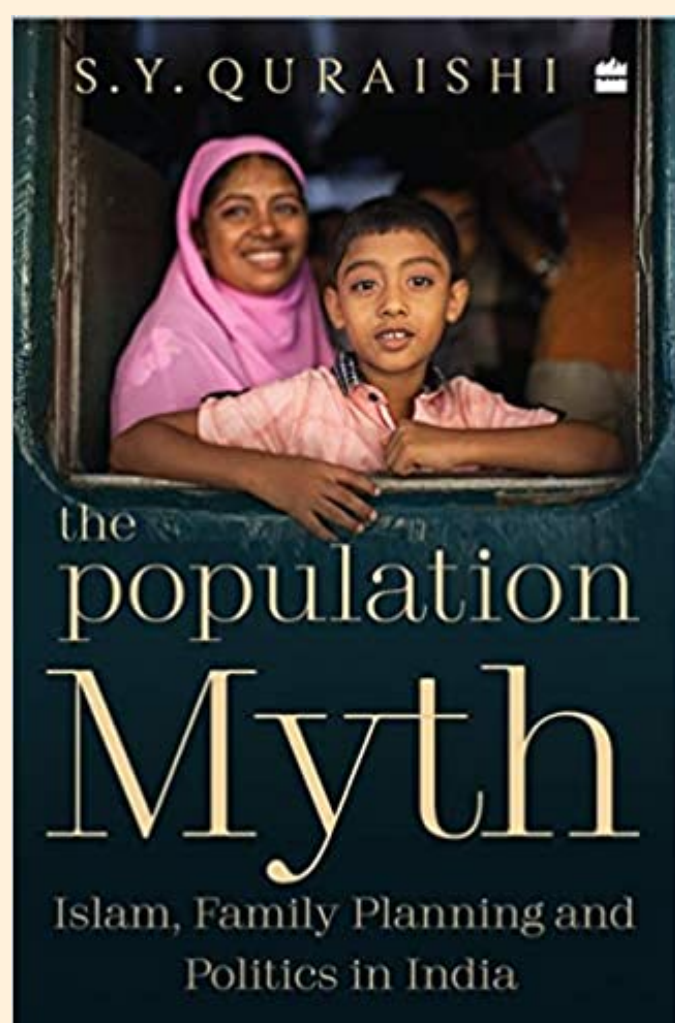
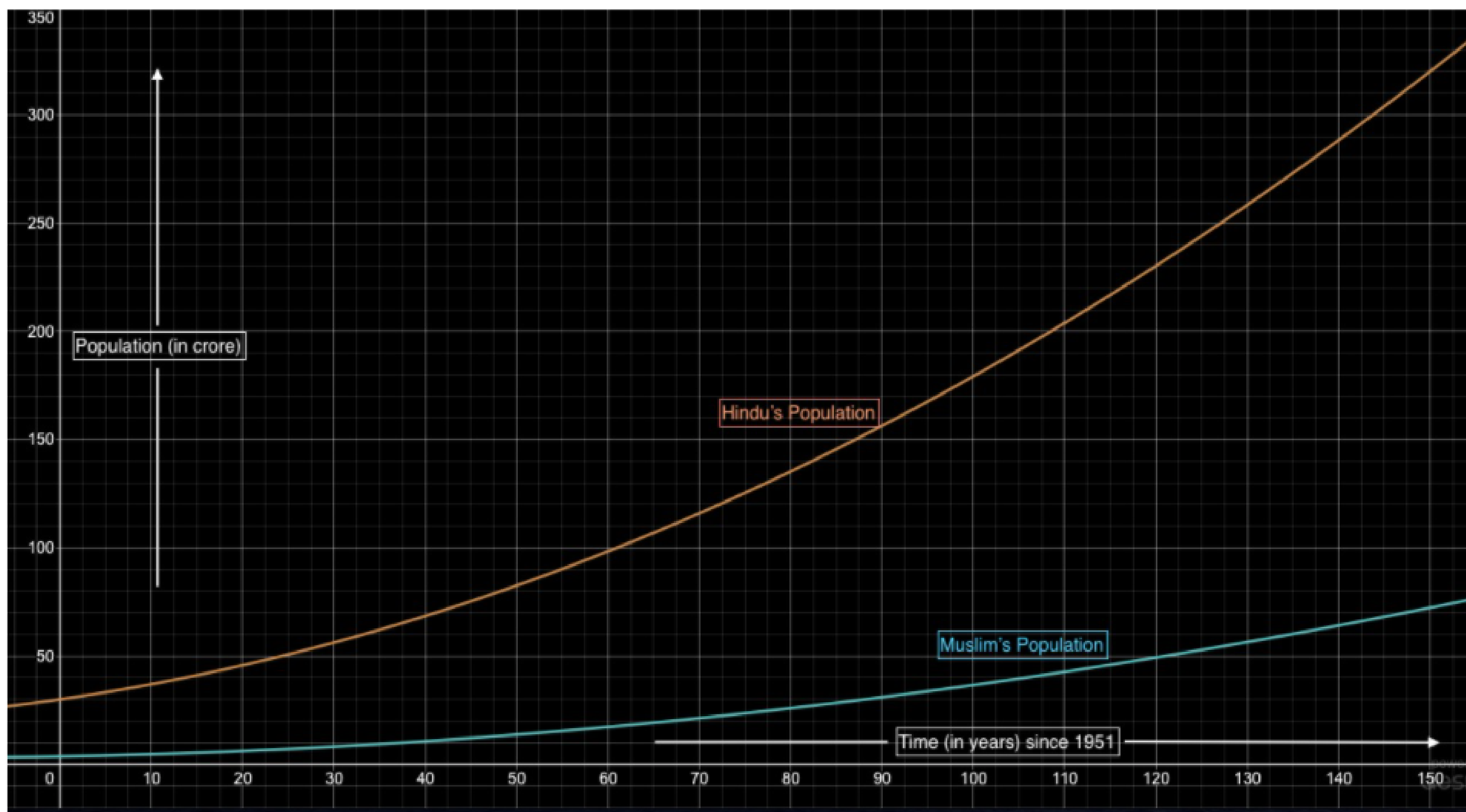
Population growth comparison: Polynomial Growth Model



Source: Mathematical Model by Prof Dinesh Singh and Ajay Kumar (Cited by SY Quraishi in the book Population Myth, 2021)

Myth No. 3 (cont....)

Projection for next 150 years



'The newest addition to the literature available on Muslim thought and practice of planned parenthood.'

Tahir Mahmood, Former Chairperson, National Minorities Commission of India

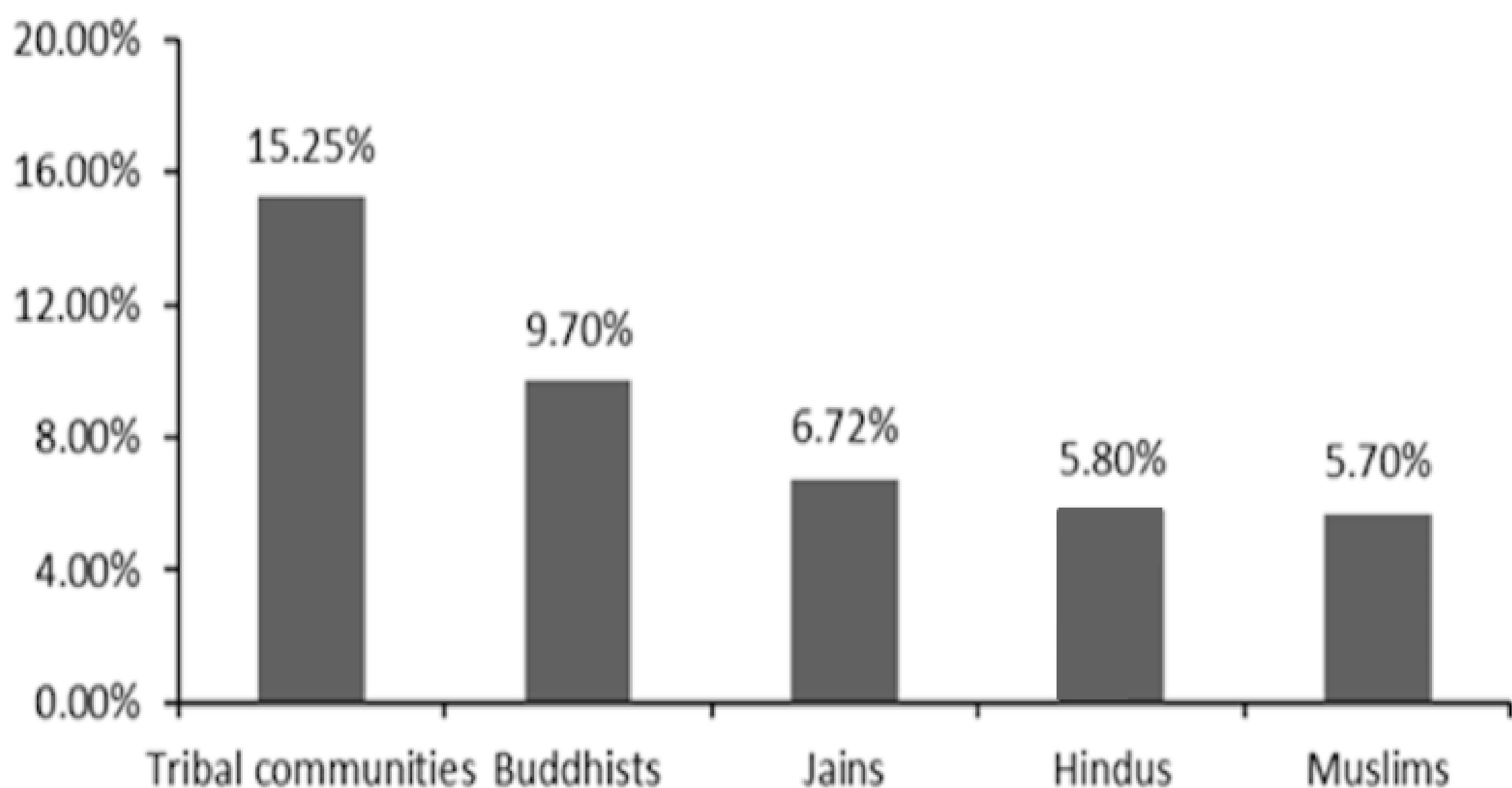
**Book Available
Now on Amazon**

Myth No. 4

Muslims use Polygamy for increasing population.

- The remark *Hum paanch, humare pachchees* (we five, out twenty five) *Hum chaar, humare chalees* (we four, our forty). Will the people raising this slogan show one such Muslim?
- Fact: GOI study in 1975 found that ALL communities had some polygamy but the Muslims were the LEAST polygamous.
- Polygamy statistically IMPOSSIBLE. The number of women for every 1000 men is only 940 as per census 2011 (and 922 in 2020).
- Ratio of women in India has always been lower for over a century.

Incidence of polygamous marriages is lowest among muslims

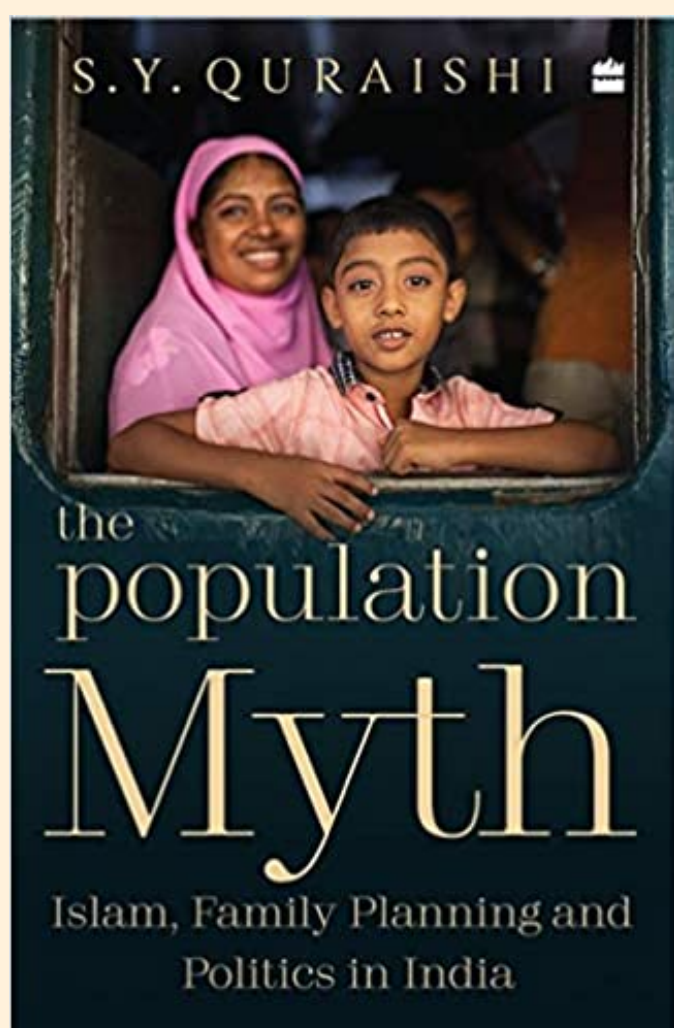


Does Islam encourage polygamy?

There is a general misconception that Islam encourages polygamy. The reality, however, is different. Islam only permits polygamy subject to two stringent conditions - absolute equality among wives and marrying only widows. (Surah An Nisa 4:3)



وَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تُقْسِطُوا فِي الْيَنْبَىٰ فَانكِحُوا مَا طَابَ لَكُمْ مِنَ النِّسَاءِ مَثْنَىٰ وَثُلَاثَ وَرُبْعَ ۖ فَإِنْ خِفْتُمْ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوا فَوَاحِدَةً



'Must be read to understand the complex interrelationships between population dynamics and fertility, development choices and politics.'

Sujatha Rao, Former Health Secretary of India

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Myth No. 5

Islam is against family planning

- Nowhere has the Quran prohibited family planning.
- There are only interpretations- both for and against.
- Numerous verses of the Quran & citations from Hadees (words and actions of the Holy Prophet - peace be upon him) emphasize quality over numbers, the health of women & children, and right of children to good upbringing.
- Sterilization is forbidden (by all Islamic interpretations) but birth-spacing is not only allowed, but encouraged.

"Let those who do not have the means for marriage keep themselves chaste until Allah gives them means out of His grace." (Youth must marry only when they have the means to support a family)." (Surah an Nur-24:33)



وَلَيْسَتَعَفِيفَ الَّذِينَ لَا يَجِدُونَ نِكَاحًا حَتَّى يُغْنِيَهُمُ اللَّهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ

Supporting Ahaadees

- This is amplified by the Prophet: “O young men! Those of you who can support a wife and household should marry. For, marriage keeps you from looking with lust at women and preserves you from promiscuity. But those who cannot, should take to fasting, which is a means of tampering sexual desires”. (Bukhari). (How to delay the marriage is suggested).
- Then there is a Hadees that refers to restricting the size of the family. Abu Sa’ad, a companion of the Prophet, reported, ‘A man came to the Prophet to ask about the practice of al-azl (coitus interruptus-withdrawal) with his mate. He added “I do not like her to get pregnant and I am a man who wants what other men want. But the Jews claim that al-azl is minor infanticide.” The Prophet strongly dismissed this contention saying “The Jew lied, the Jew lied.” (Abu Dawoud, Ibn Hanbal and al-Tahawi).

Islam, in fact, is the Pioneer of Family Planning!

Thus Islam is not only NOT opposed to family planning but in fact is the pioneer of the concept.

According to Al Azhar University professor Abdur Rahim Omran, “*It is a wonder to the thinkers of today that Islam should give so much importance to child spacing and family planning so early in human history, and in the absence of compelling population pressures.*”

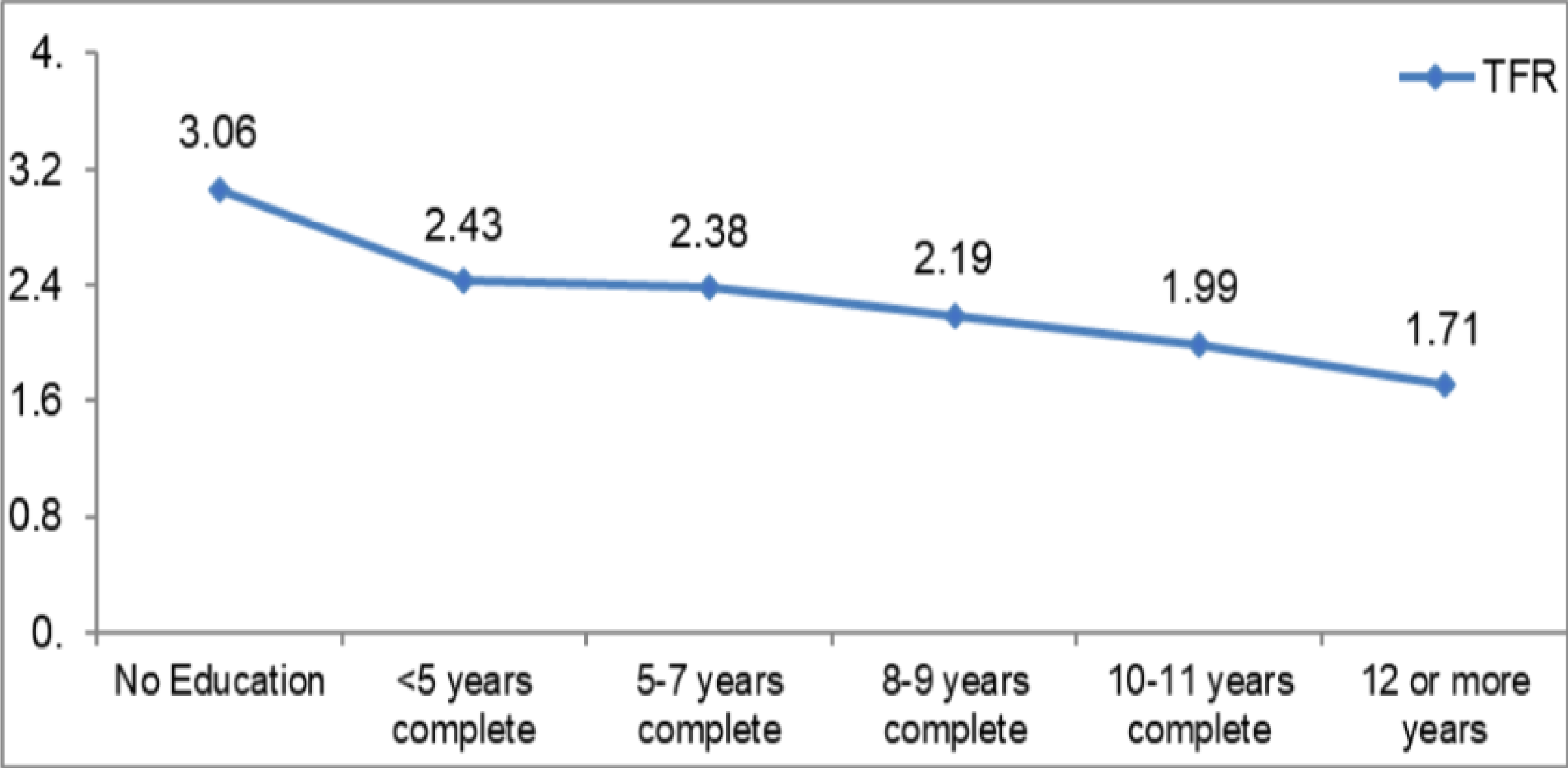
It is not a Hindu - Muslim Issue at all!

- Fertility of all communities is dependent on socio-economic factors like literacy, income and delivery of family planning services. The level of these conditions varies from region to region.
- Large inter-state variations in fertility - lowest TFR in Kerala at 1.56 to the highest TFR in Bihar at 3.41.
- In 25 states, Muslims have lower TFR than Hindus in Bihar. If religion was the factor, Muslims would have highest TFR in all states.
- There is nothing like 'Hindu fertility' or 'Muslim fertility' as such.
- For example, the Muslim TFR ranges from 1.74 in Tamil Nadu to 4.11 in Bihar, while that of Hindus ranges from 1.42 in Kerala to 3.29 in Bihar.

"The high fertility of some communities in some regions is on account of regional socio-economic factors and not a religious factor."

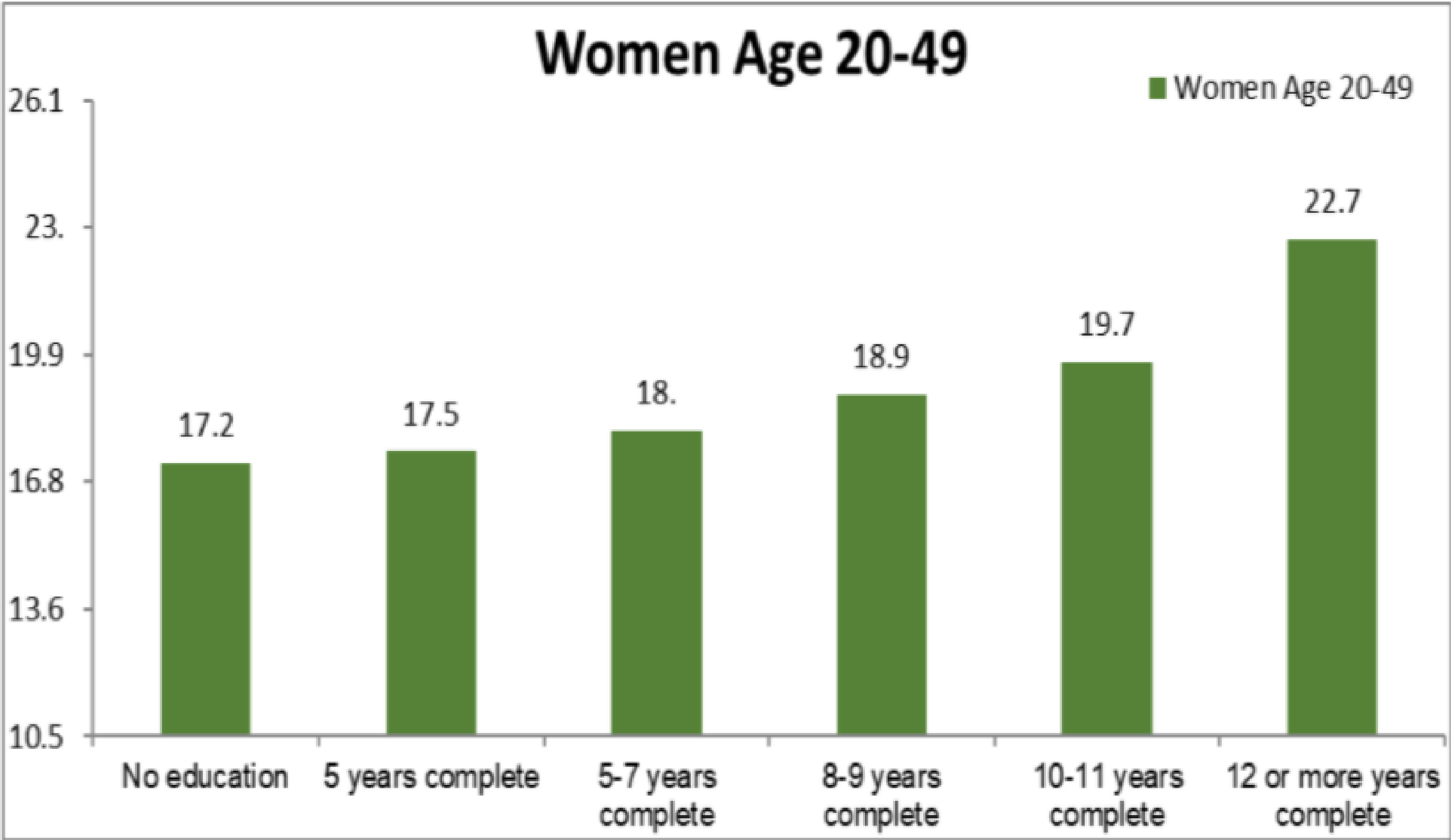
Factor 1: Literacy

As literacy goes up, TFR goes down



Source: NFHS 4, 2015-16

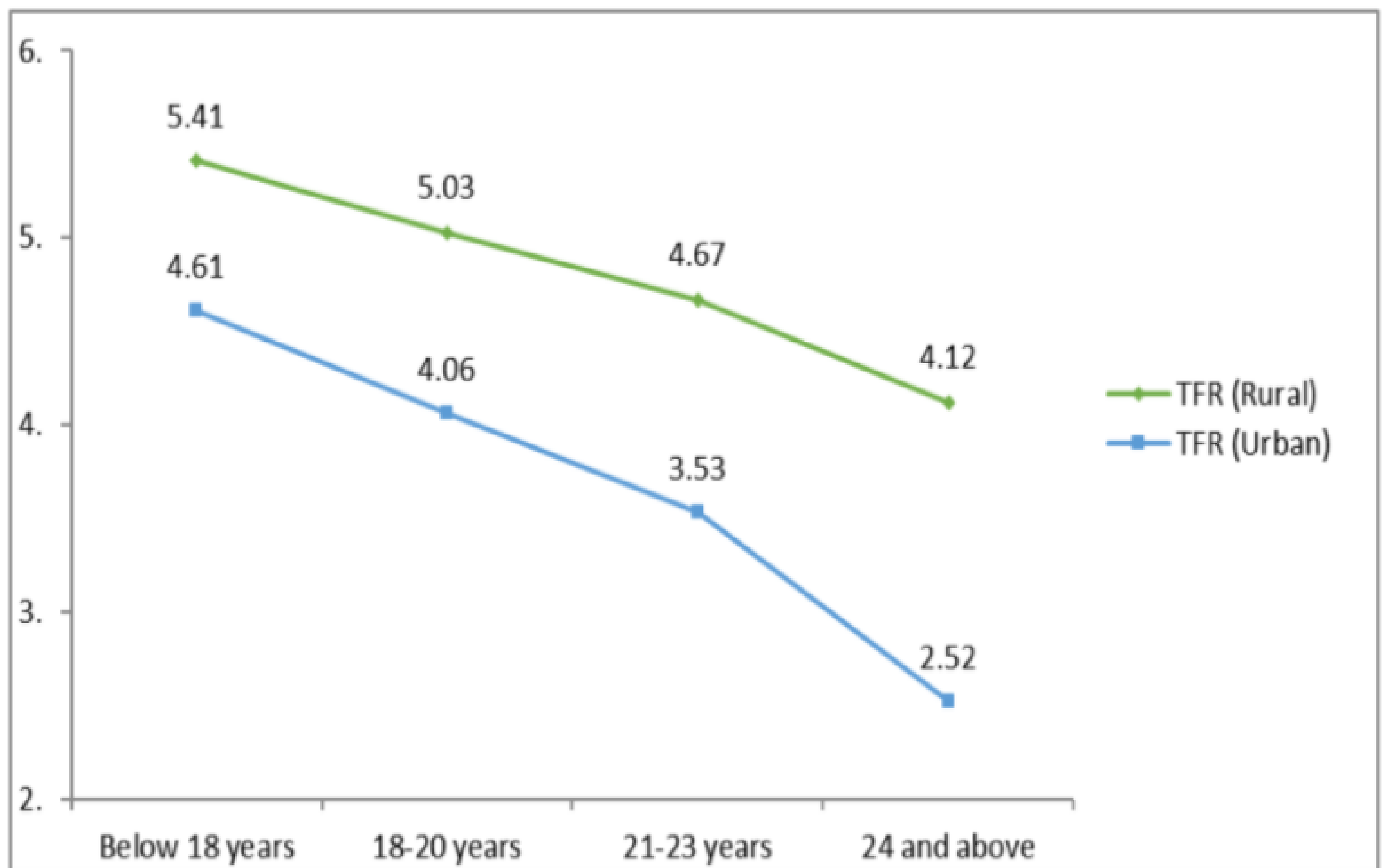
Education delays age of marriage which, in turn, reduces TFR



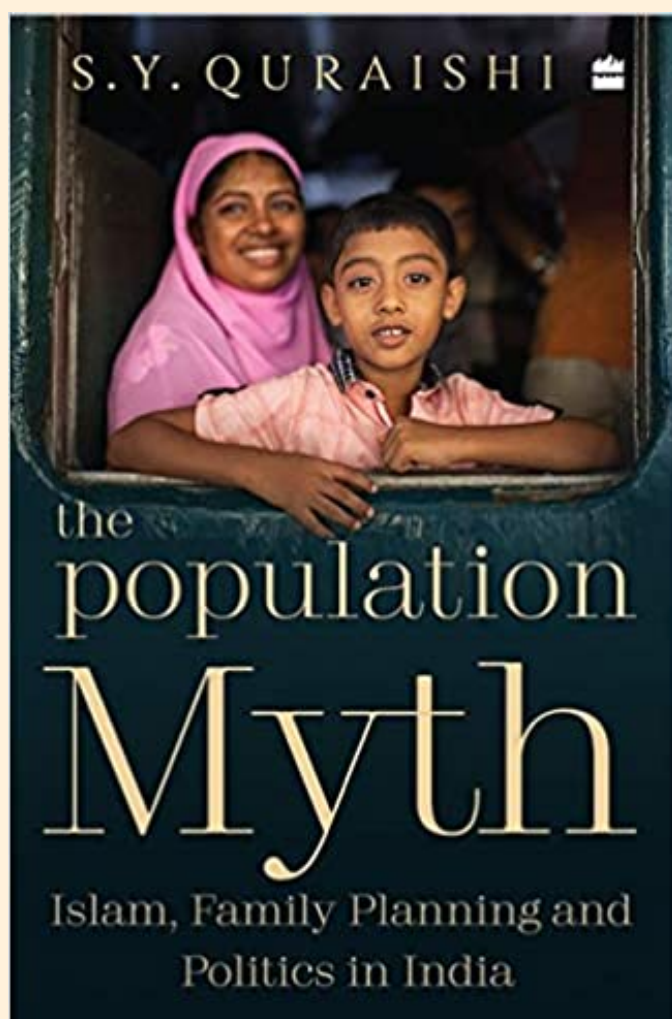
Source: NFHS 4, 2015-16

Factor 1: Literacy (cont..)

As the marriage gets delayed, the number of children goes down



Source: NFHS 3, 2005-06



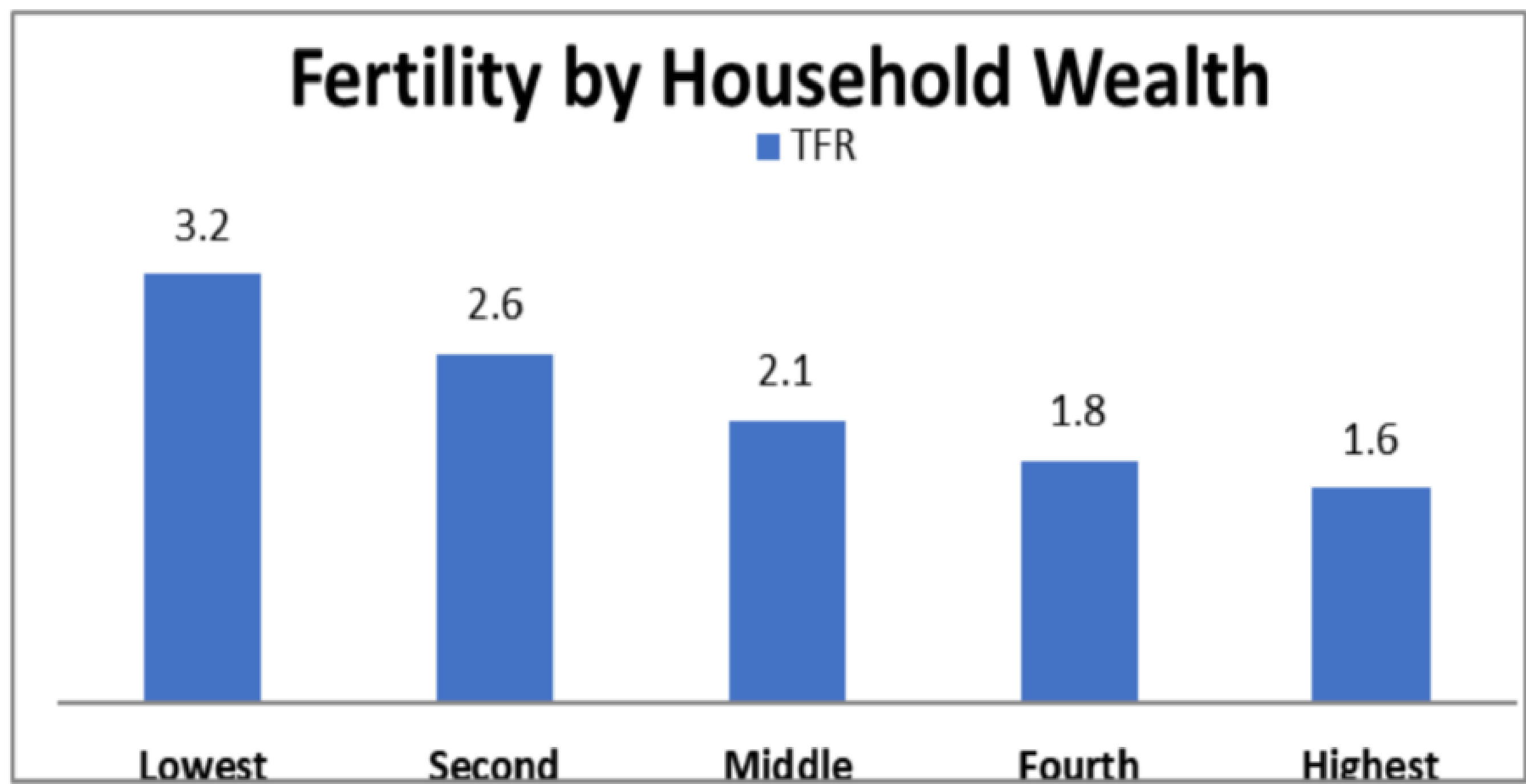
'Important reading for all those interested in public health administration, health policy and the future of a democratic India.'

Keshav Desiraju, Former Health Secretary, Currently Chairperson, Population Foundation of India

**Book Available
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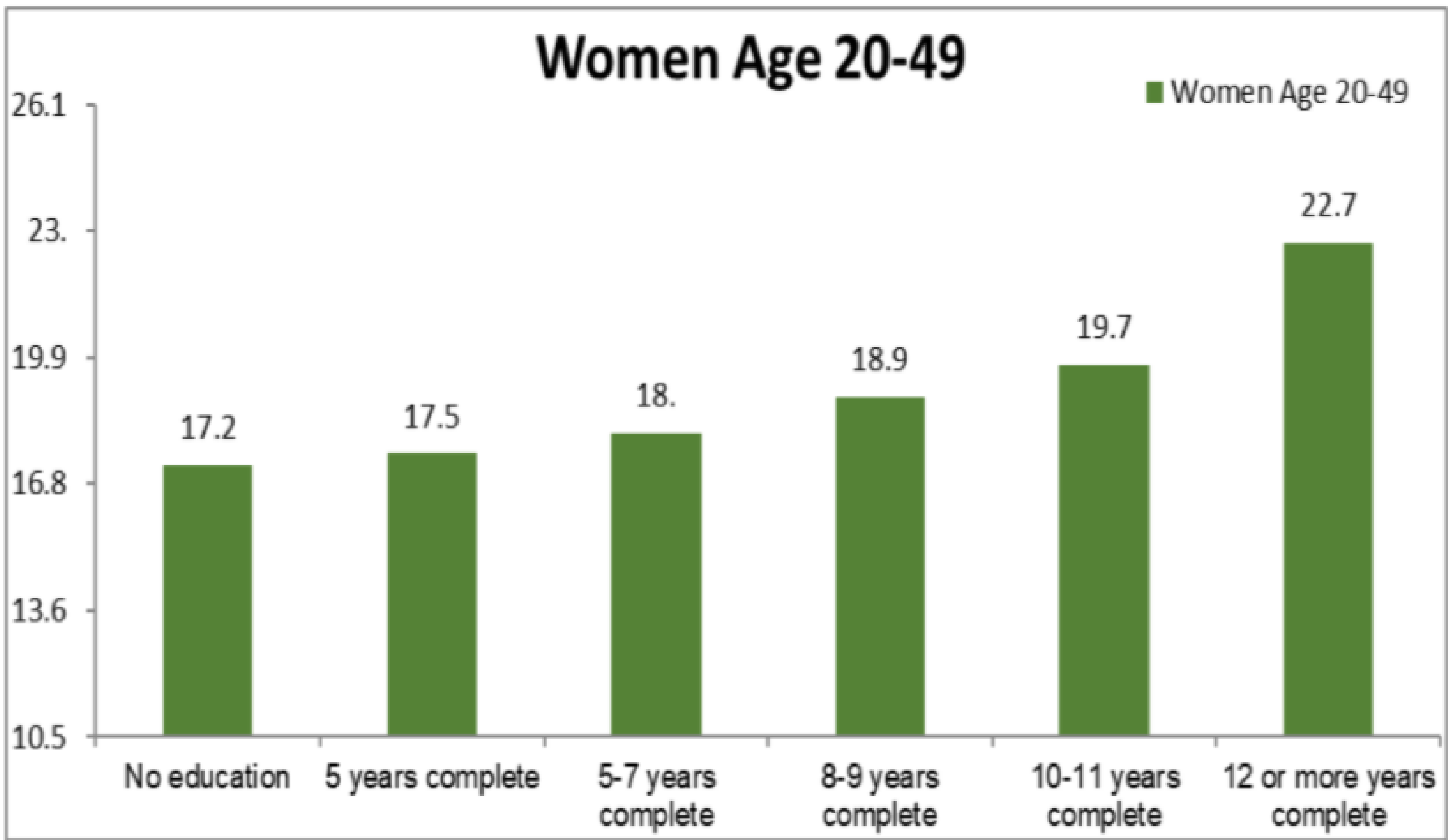
Factor 2: Income/Poverty

With more income, fertility goes down.



Source: NFHS 4, 2015-16

Non-workers have more fertility than workers



Source: Sample Registration System SRS-1990, Registrar General of India

Factor 3: Family Planning

As the family planning service delivery improves, TFR goes down.

Services like ante-natal care, health infrastructure, family planning counseling, etc.

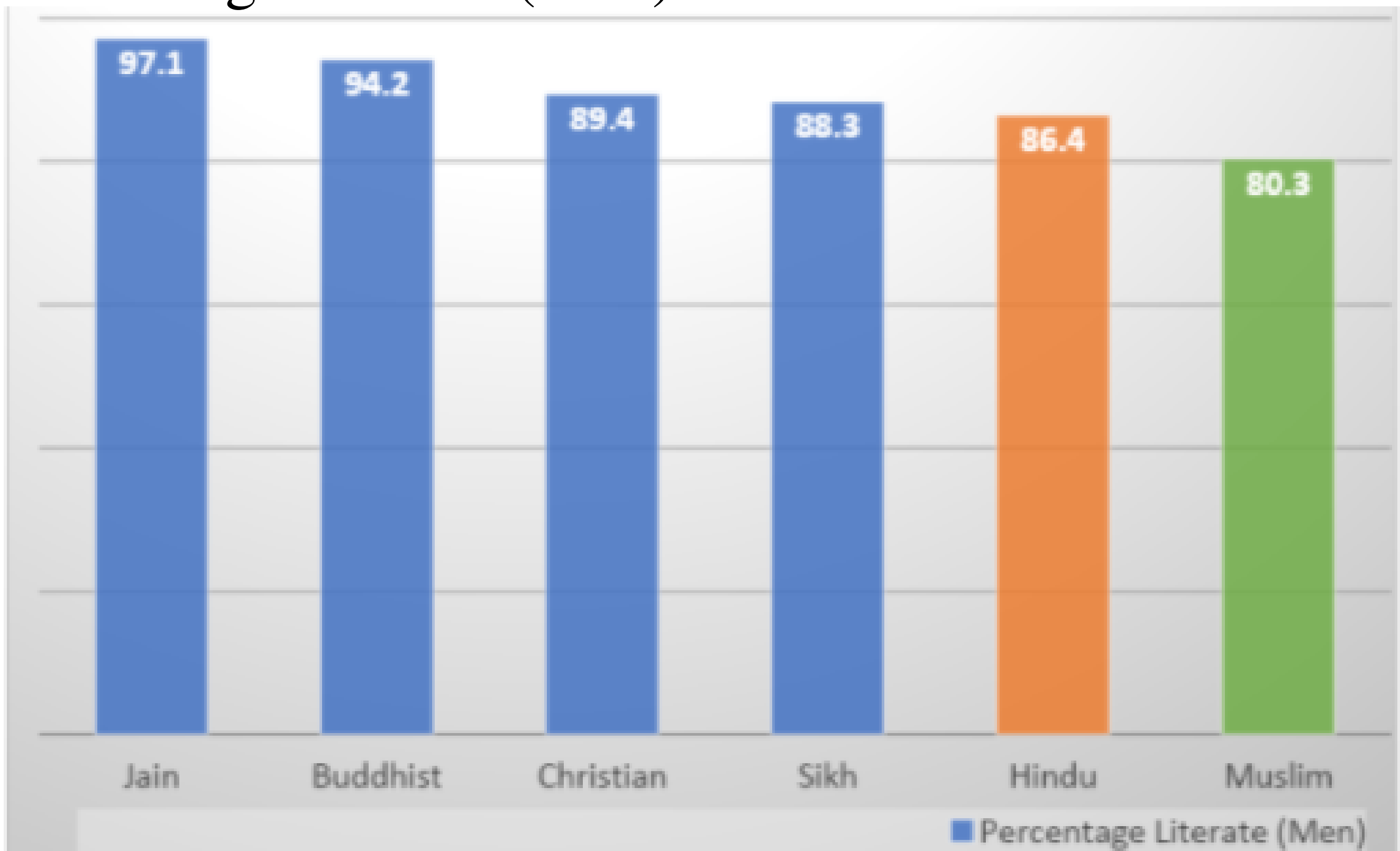


Where do Muslims stand
in all these Socio-Economic
Factors?

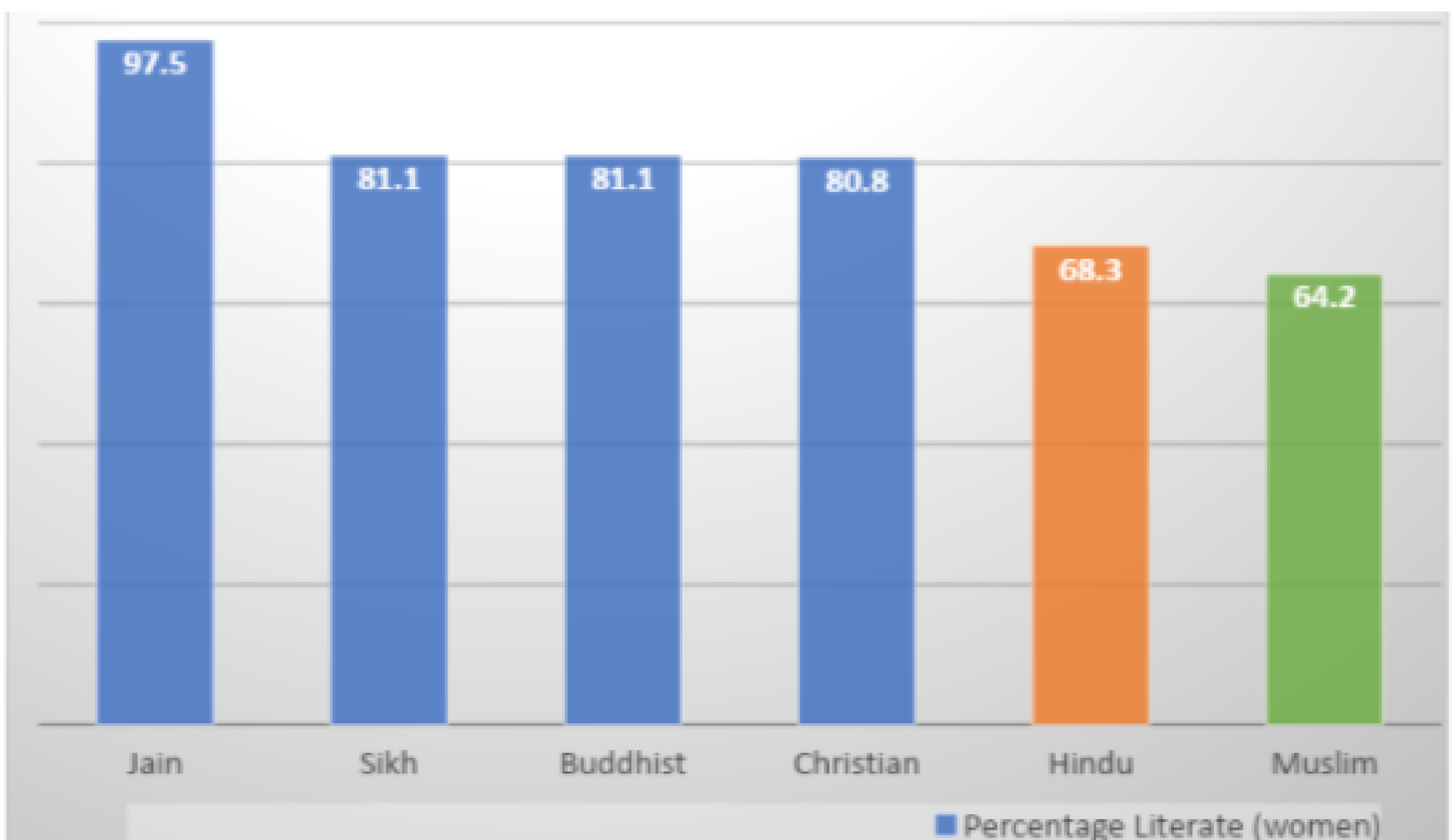
AT THE BOTTOM!

Where do Muslims stand in literacy? - **AT THE BOTTOM!**

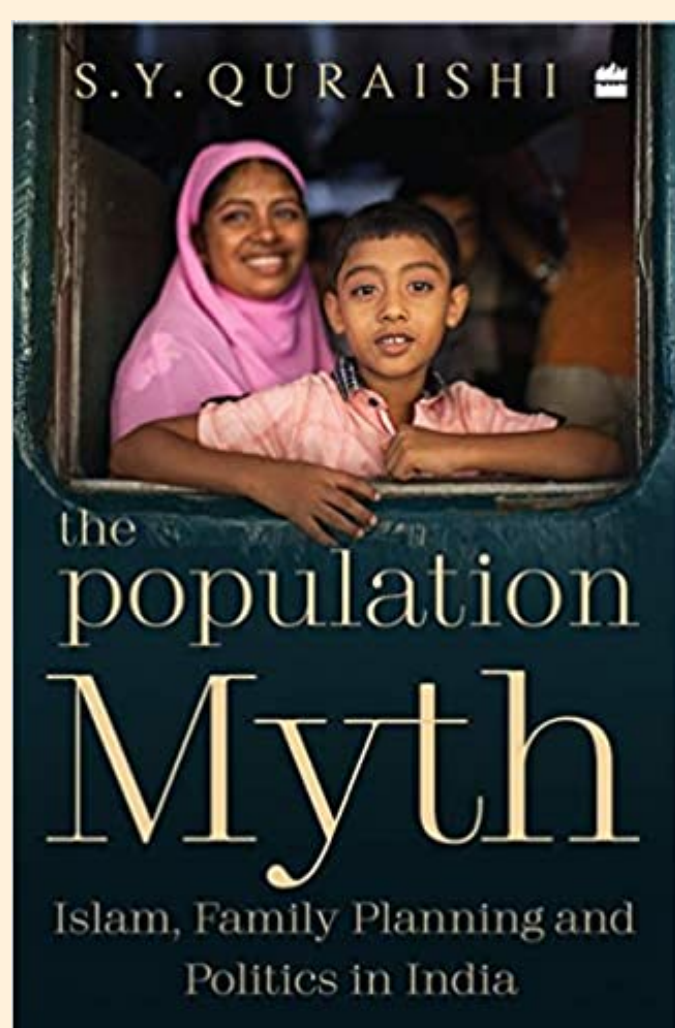
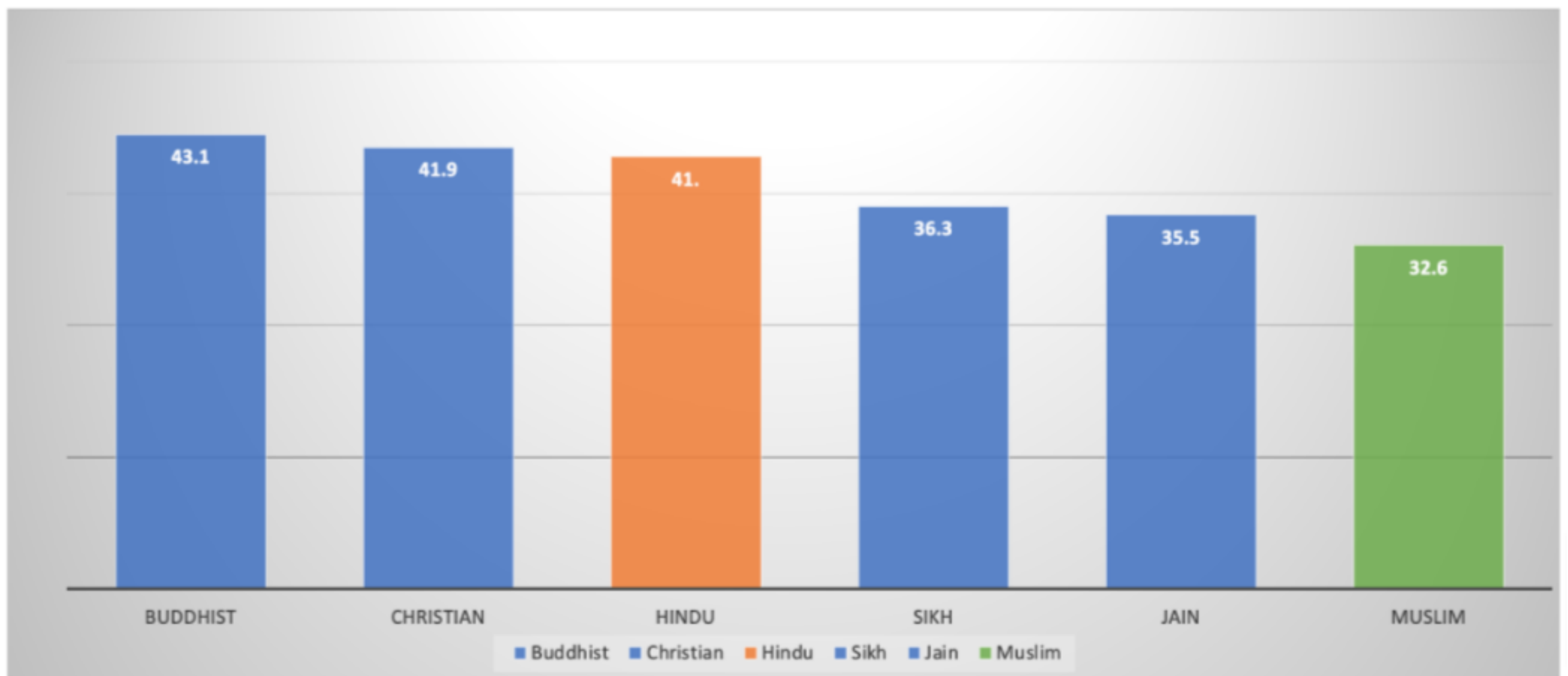
Percentage Literate (Men)



Percentage Literate (Women)



Where do Muslims stand in worker population? - **AT THE BOTTOM!**



'This book approaches the vexed issue of religious demography very objectively and more scientifically. A serious assessment from varied dimensions.'

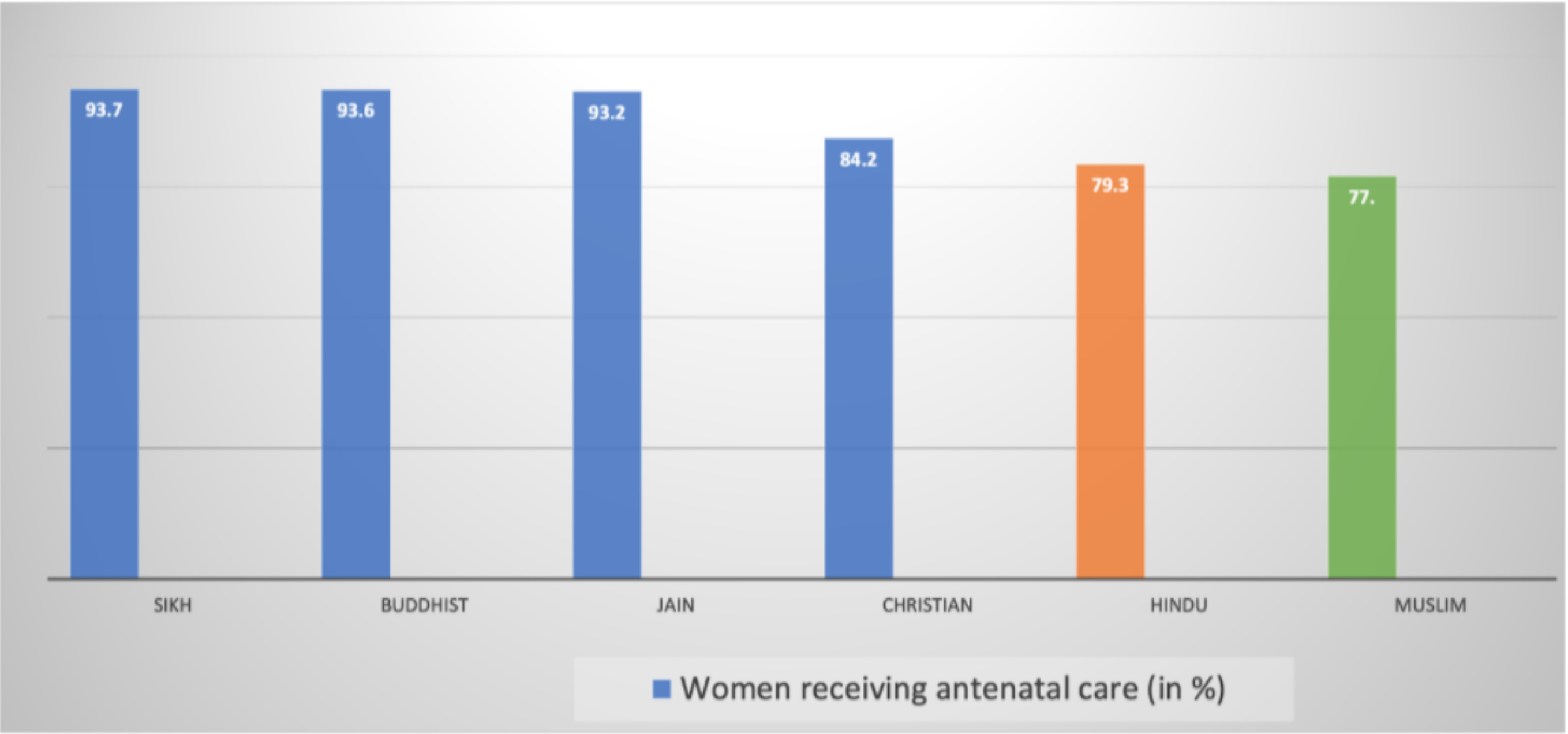
**Professor K.S. James, Director and Senior Professor,
International Institute for Population Sciences**

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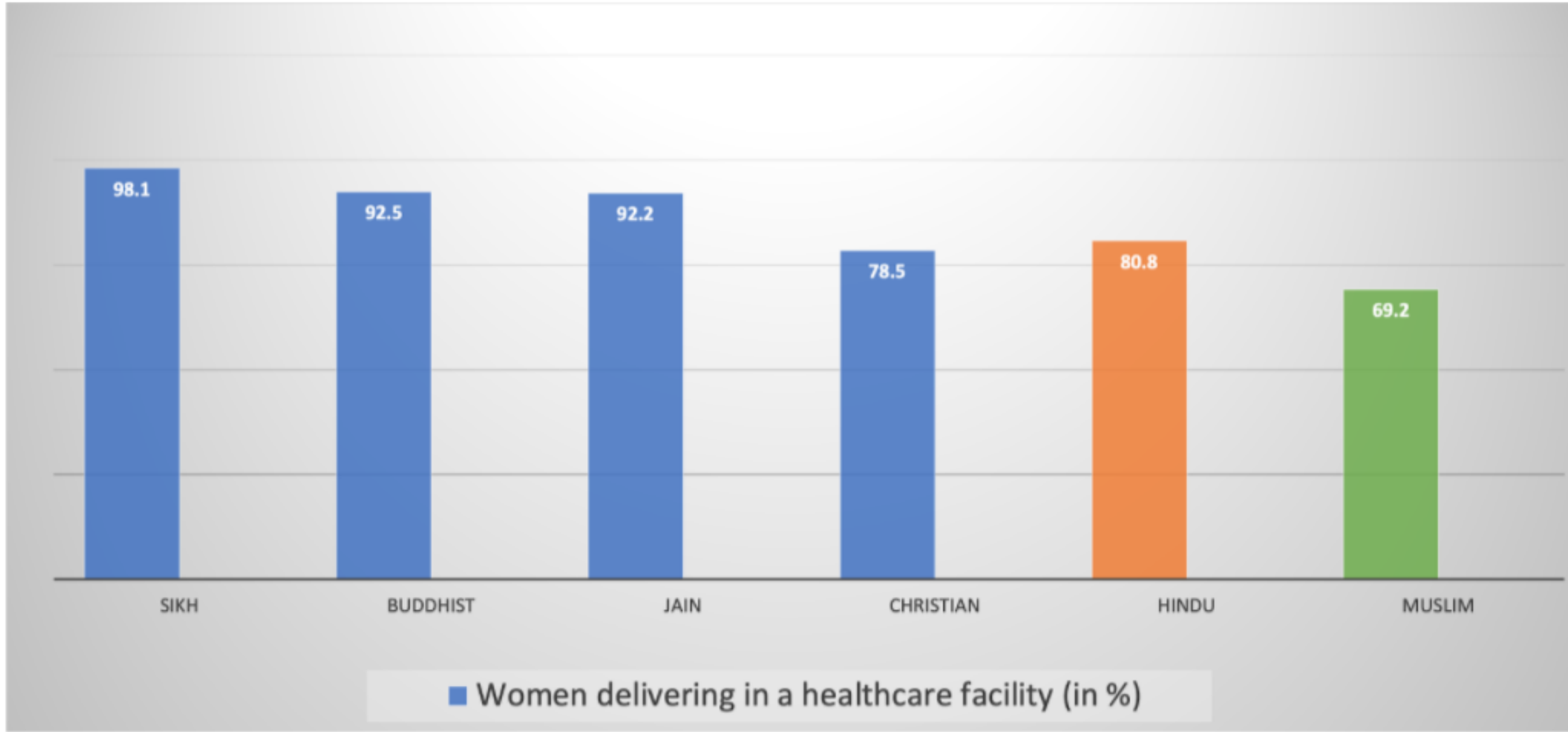
Where do Muslims stand in getting family planning & health services?

- **AT THE BOTTOM!**

Availability of Antenatal care lowest for Muslims



Availability of health infrastructure and services lowest for Muslims



Lets look at Family Planning in Muslim Countries.

- Family planning is a developmental priority in Islamic countries, like Iran, Egypt, Indonesia and Bangladesh.
- The table below shows that these countries, despite their powerful clergies, did not find Islam antagonistic to the concept of family planning.
- In Bangladesh and Indonesia, Imams and mosques actively propagated family planning.

Country	Total Fertility Rate (World Bank, 2020)	Contraception prevalence rate, women currently married or in union, aged 15-49, any method (UNFPA 2019)
Iran	1.62	78%
Malaysia	2.01	53%
Turkey	2.02	75%
Bangladesh	2.07	64%
Indonesia	2.32	61%
Saudi Arabia	2.48	31%
Egypt	3.15	61%
Pakistan	3.38	42%
Afghanistan	4.41	27%
Nigeria	5.28	19%

Source: World Bank, 2020 and UNFPA, 2019

Population and Political Propaganda

- The Hindu right-wing continues to provoke Hindus to produce more children by creating a fear that Muslims will soon outnumber them.
- This propaganda is totally busted by the Mathematical Model prepared by Prof. Dinesh Singh and Prof. Ajay Kumar. It conclusively proves that Muslims can NEVER overtake Hindus in India. (*Cited by SY Quraishi in the book Population Myth, 2021*)



Reality : Muslims and Hindus are in the same boat!

- TFR of Muslims is highest at 2.61, Hindus are the second highest at 2.13.
- Similarly, in every factor that leads to high TFR like literacy, age of marriage, unmet need for family planning, exposure to family planning messages, etc. Hindus are close second to the Muslims.
- The National Population Policy 2000 which had targeted the TFR of 2.1 by 2010 has been quite a success. At 2.2, we are almost there. As many as 25 states have already achieved the target and only four northern states are lagging slightly behind.

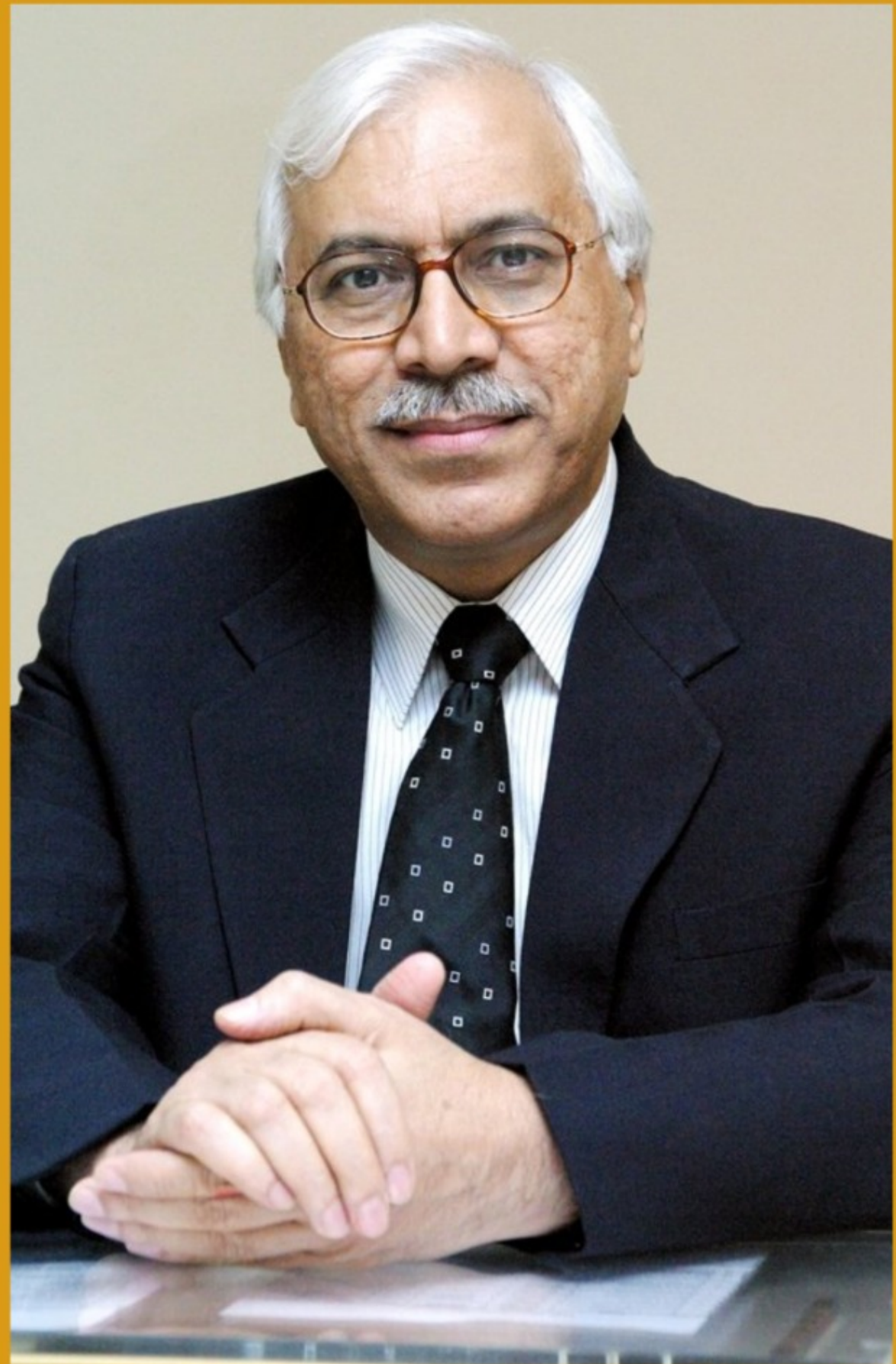
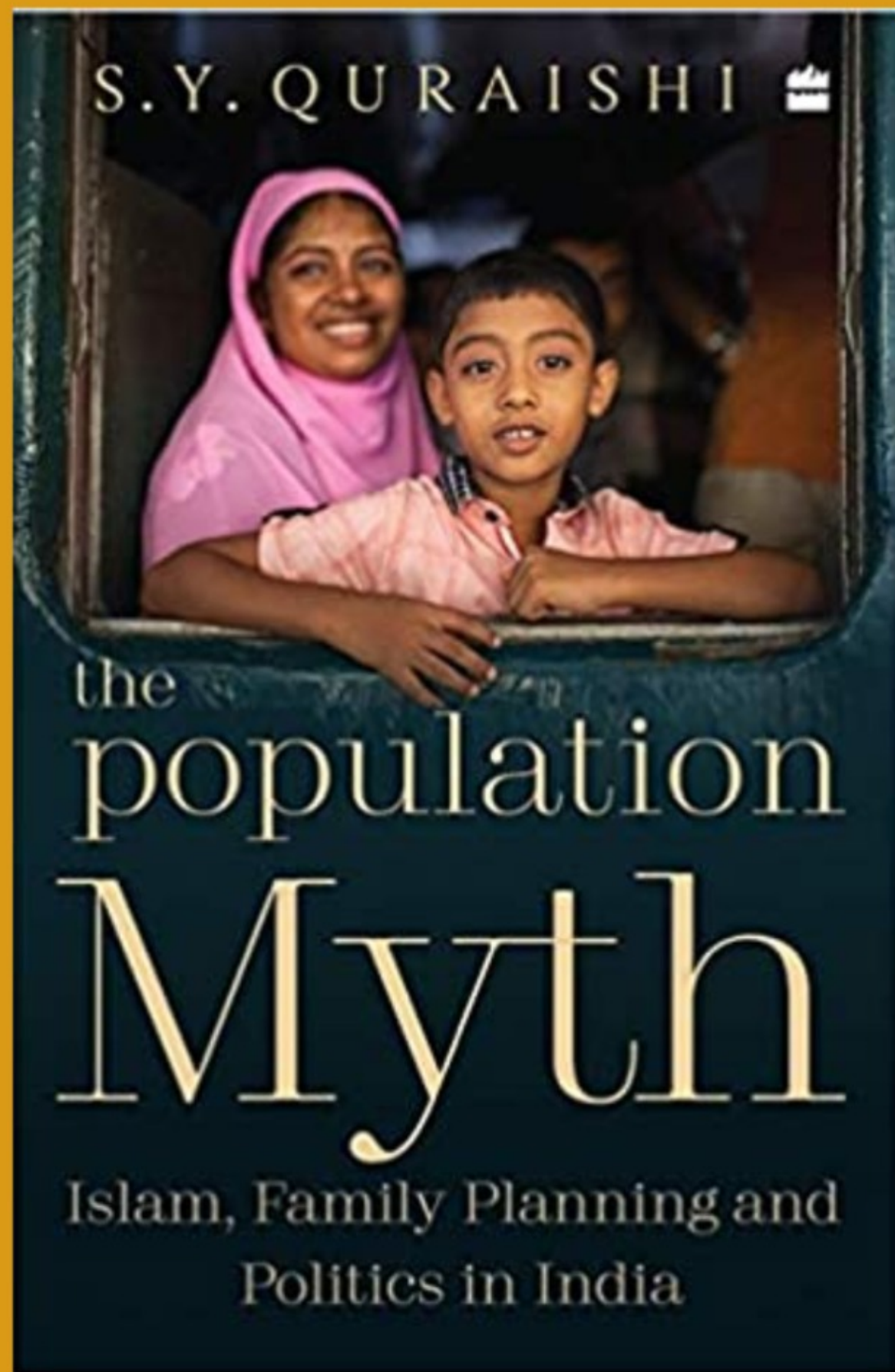
Where is the Failure?

Administrative

- All plan and policy documents recorded high birth rate of Muslims - but no solutions were offered or attempted.
- Real factors not addressed- literacy, poverty, service delivery, etc
- No efforts were made to dispel myths.
- No training given to health staff to dispel doubts in the minds of Muslims who thought that family planning was unIslamic.
- No Fact Book or Resource Book was prepared for health staff, communicators or politicians.
- Political leaders have been indifferent to family planning programs.
- Hardly a few Parliament or Vidhan Sabha Questions were asked. A survey of Parliament Questions during 13th to 16th Lok Sabha shows only 0.15% of Questions were asked on family planning.

Recommendations

- **National Population Policy** is a great idea.
- **Muslims must adopt family planning** even more proactively.
- **Special efforts must be made to educate** those who are resistant to family planning.
- True Islamic position must be understood & propagated.
- **Staff must be trained** to answer people's doubts sensitively
- A **Resource Book** must be created for staff and political leaders.
- Faith leaders must be involved. Ulama/ media men may be sent to Iran, Indonesia, Bangladesh etc to study their success story.
- **Ulama of other countries must be invited to enable cross-learning** which can further encourage the adoption of family planning.
- Success stories must be widely disseminated.
- Muslim youth must be encouraged to participate in family planning programmes.
- All communities must work together for population stabilisation.
- All kinds of **false propaganda must be dispelled** with a collective effort.



"The Population Myth reveals how the right-wing spin to population data has given rise to myths about the Muslim rate of growth, often used to stoke majoritarian fears of a demographic skew. The author, S.Y. Quraishi, uses facts to demolish these, and demonstrates how a planned population is in the interest of all communities. The book delves into the Quran and the Hadith to show how Islam might have been one of the first religions in the world to actually advocate smaller families, which is why several Islamic nations today have population policies in place. This busts the other myth that Muslims shun family planning on religious grounds. Based on impeccable research, this is an important book from a credible voice about the politicisation of demographics in India today."



Scan this QR code to order the book from Amazon or simply google **"The Population Myth"**

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